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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/811,055

03/26/2004

John B. Cline

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7598

25881

7590

08/21/2009

EPSTEIN DRANGEL BAZERMAN & JAMES, LLP
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EXAMINER

CHAPMAN, GINGER T

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3761

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

08/21/2009

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/811,055	Applicant(s) CLINE, JOHN B.	
	Examiner Ginger T. Chapman	Art Unit 3761	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 12 September 2008.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 35,36 and 38-59 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 35,36 and 38-59 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 26 March 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Double Patenting

The nonstatutory double patenting rejection is based on a judicially created doctrine grounded in public policy (a policy reflected in the statute) so as to prevent the unjustified or improper timewise extension of the “right to exclude” granted by a patent and to prevent possible harassment by multiple assignees. A nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting rejection is appropriate where the conflicting claims are not identical, but at least one examined application claim is not patentably distinct from the reference claim(s) because the examined application claim is either anticipated by, or would have been obvious over, the reference claim(s). See, e.g., *In re Berg*, 140 F.3d 1428, 46 USPQ2d 1226 (Fed. Cir. 1998); *In re Goodman*, 11 F.3d 1046, 29 USPQ2d 2010 (Fed. Cir. 1993); *In re Longi*, 759 F.2d 887, 225 USPQ 645 (Fed. Cir. 1985); *In re Van Ornum*, 686 F.2d 937, 214 USPQ 761 (CCPA 1982); *In re Vogel*, 422 F.2d 438, 164 USPQ 619 (CCPA 1970); and *In re Thorington*, 418 F.2d 528, 163 USPQ 644 (CCPA 1969).

A timely filed terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c) or 1.321(d) may be used to overcome an actual or provisional rejection based on a nonstatutory double patenting ground provided the conflicting application or patent either is shown to be commonly owned with this application, or claims an invention made as a result of activities undertaken within the scope of a joint research agreement.

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Effective January 1, 1994, a registered attorney or agent of record may sign a terminal disclaimer. A terminal disclaimer signed by the assignee must fully comply with 37 CFR 3.73(b).

1. Claims 35-38 and 40-60 are provisionally rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-9 and 11-17 of copending Application No. 11/430,542. Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other because the '542 application claims means for preventing passage of liquid and solid material through a stoma, adhesive means surrounding a stoma and pressurizable means for pressing the preventing means against a stoma

This is a provisional obviousness-type double patenting rejection because the conflicting claims have not in fact been patented.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 35-38, 40, 42-44, 46, 47, 50-55, 59 and 60 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Kawasaki *et al.* (US 5,433,724 A; hereinafter "Kawasaki") in view of Wagner (US 6,071,268).

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Regarding claims 35, 59 and 60, Kawasaki teaches a device (1) capable of sealing a stoma to control the passage of liquid and solid waste material through the stoma, said device (1) being situated entirely externally to the body and comprising recess defining means (4);

adhesive (14, 15) surrounding and enclosing a stoma capable of securing said recess defining means (4) to the body such that the recess defining means forms a seal with the body completely surrounding and enclosing the stoma (A);

and stoma covering means (5), situated externally to the body, over the stoma (A), within said recess defining means (4), and comprising a continuous, uninterrupted member adapted to prevent passage of liquid and solid waste material through the stoma (A) when pressed against the stoma (A), said recess defining means (4) defining, with said stoma covering means (5), a chamber, said chamber comprising a fluid entrance port (7) and being situated over said stoma covering means (5), said chamber being pressurizable with fluid through said fluid entrance port (7) to press said stoma covering means (5) against the stoma and further comprising means for sealing (6) said fluid entrance port to prevent the fluid from escaping said chamber after it is pressurized (col. 7, lines 10-15; col. 9, lines 20-33)(see figures 2 & 4, *infra*).

Regarding the interpretation of “stoma,” a “stoma” is herein construed to mean a surgically created artificial opening in a human patient, it is not limited to an intestinal opening. See *Medicinenet.com* definition of stoma. See also, *Merriam Webster's* definition of “stoma.” For example, tracheal stomas and ureteral stomas are well known in the art. Applicant's specification does not specifically set forth a definition of “stoma” that precludes this interpretation. The claims must be given their broadest reasonable interpretation MPEP § 2111.

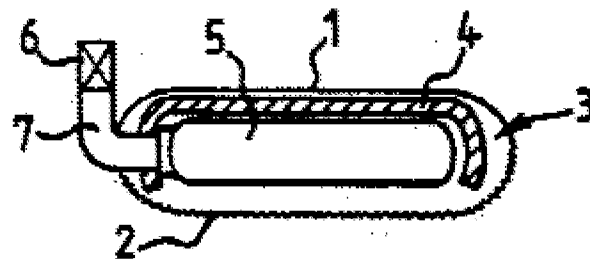


FIG. 2

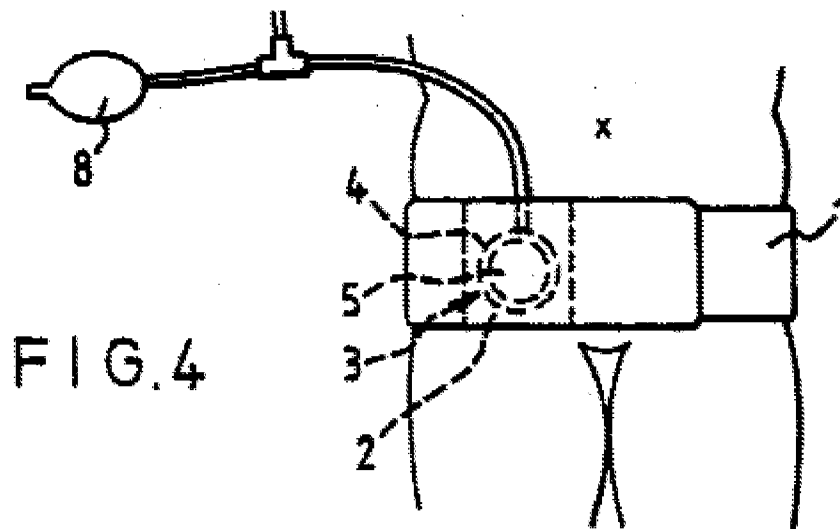


FIG. 4

Kawaski discloses the claimed invention except for the adhesive completely surrounds and encloses the stoma. Kawaski provides motivation for a seal. As best depicted in Figures 2, 3, 5-12, Wagner teaches providing seal completely surrounding and enclosing a stoma on all sides. Therefore it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the seal of Kawaski as taught by Wagner since Wagner states, at c. 4, ll. 29-31, that the benefit of this design is that it provides a gentle sealing force around the stoma which is sufficient to provide a seal against leakage but avoids stomach, i.e. skin irritation.

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Regarding claim 36, Kawasaki teaches that means (5) is a flexible membrane (col. 5, lines 1-15).

Regarding claim 37, Kawasaki teaches that stoma covering means (5) has an edge that is fixed within the recess defining means (4).

Regarding claims 38, 42 and 46, Kawasaki teaches a flexible, external pressurizing means (8).

Regarding claims 40 and 43, Kawasaki teaches a one-way valve (6).

Regarding claim 44, Kawasaki teaches a gauge (9) that permits an operator to manually limit the pressure applied via pressurizing means.

Regarding claim 47, Kawasaki teaches a tube (7) that can be removed to open a vent.

Regarding claims 50 and 51, Kawasaki teaches removable engaging means (1) capable of engaging recess defining means (4) and adhesive means (14, 15).

Regarding claims 52, 53 and 55, Kawasaki teaches collapsible waste collection means (3, 10, 29) including a pouch.

Regarding claim 54, Kawasaki teaches a waste collecting means (10) connected to the securing means (14, 15).

3. Claim 41 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kawasaki.

Kawasaki does not teach an integral pump.

Making what is known in the art to be separable, integral, is not sufficient to patentably distinguish the claimed invention over the prior art. *In re Larson*, 340 F.2d 965, 968, 144 USPQ 347, 349 (CCPA 1965).

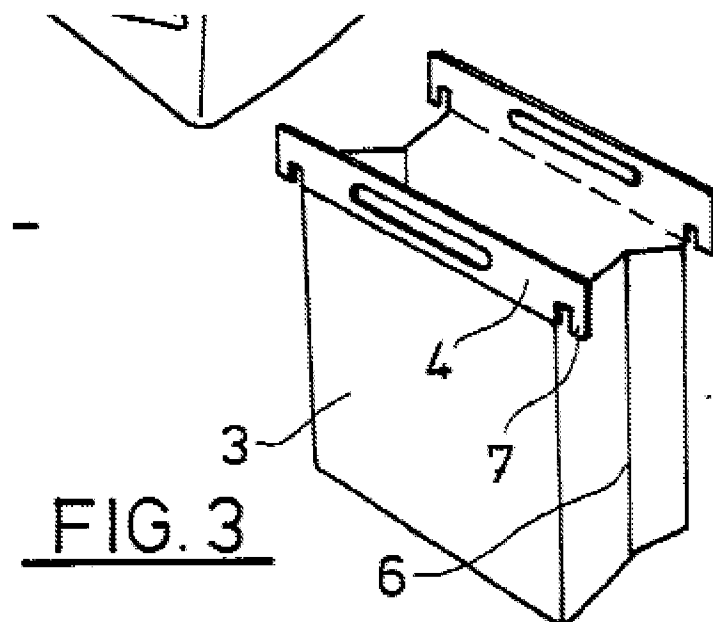
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4. Claim 56 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kawasaki in view of Bergmann *et al.* (DE 43 40 705 A1; hereinafter “Bergmann”).

Kawasaki does not disclose expressly that the device can be used with waste collection means having a concertina-like configuration.

Bergmann teaches a waste bag (4) having a concertina configuration (see English language abstract)(see fig. 3, *infra*).

At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art to use the medical waste pouch of Bergmann to dispose of the device of Kawasaki in order to provide a means of conveniently disposing of the device after use.



5. Claim 45 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kawasaki in view of Berenstein (US 5,795,314 A).

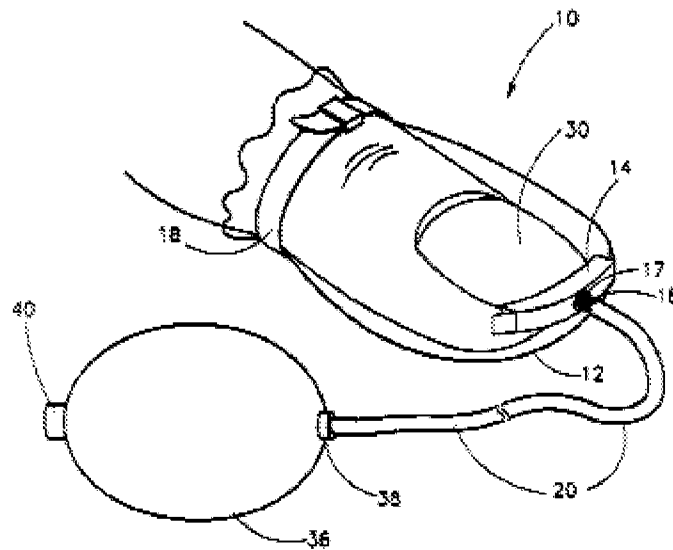
Kawasaki does not expressly disclose a pressure relief valve.

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Berenstein teaches a pressure-limiting or relief valve or vent (22)(see fig. 1, *infra*).

Where a claimed improvement on a device or apparatus is no more than "the simple substitution of one known element for another or the mere application of a known technique to a piece of prior art ready for improvement," the claim is unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). *Ex Parte Smith*, 83 USPQ.2d 1509, 1518-19 (BPAI, 2007)(citing *KSR v. Teleflex*, 127 S.Ct. 1727, 1740, 82 USPQ2d 1385, 1396 (2007)). Accordingly, Applicant claims a combination that only unites old elements with no change in the respective functions of those old elements, and the combination of those elements yields predictable results; absent persuasive evidence that the modifications necessary to effect the combination of elements is uniquely challenging or difficult for one of ordinary skill in the art, the claim is unpatentable as obvious under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). *Ex Parte Smith*, 83 USPQ.2d at 1518-19 (BPAI, 2007)(citing *KSR*, 127 S.Ct. at 1740, 82 USPQ2d at 1396). Accordingly, since the applicant[s] have submitted no persuasive evidence that the combination of the above elements is uniquely challenging or difficult for one of ordinary skill in the art, the claim is unpatentable as obvious under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) because it is no more than the predictable use of prior art elements according to their established functions resulting in the simple substitution of one known element for another or the mere application of a known technique to a piece of prior art ready for improvement.

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Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 11 April 2008 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Applicants assert that Kawasaki adhesive does not completely surround the stoma. This argument is not persuasive because the device performs the same function as detailed *infra*.

Applicants assert that plasters 14 and 15 are not adapted to surround the wound and do not secure the belt to the body surrounding the wound.

This argument is not persuasive because Kawasaki teaches the use of adhesive to attach balloon (5) to belt (1) which is in turn secured to a human body (col. 7, lines 10-15)(see fig. 3, *infra*). Since the balloon covers the wound site, the adhesive attachment of the balloon to the strip would mean that the wound site is at least partially covered/surrounded by the adhesive.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ginger T. Chapman whose telephone number is (571)272-4934. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday 9:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m..

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tatyana Zalukaeva can be reached on (571) 272-1115. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/G. T. C./

Examiner, Art Unit 3761

/Tatyana Zalukaeva/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3761